

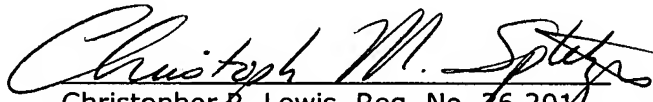
**Remarks/Arguments:**

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the opportunity afforded to Applicants' representative to conduct a Personal Interview with the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application on September 9, 2004. Claims 9, 11, and 14 have been cancelled by the present amendment without prejudice of the subject matter included therein.

Claim 1, as amended, distinguishes from the cited references for the reasons presented by Applicants' representative during the interview on September 9, 2004. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record. Dependent claims 3-5, 8, and 12-13 include each of the features of independent claim 1 from which they depend, either directly or indirectly. Thus, dependent claims 3-5, 8, and 12-13 are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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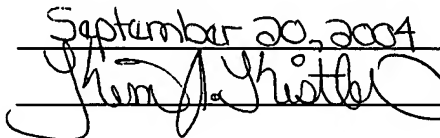
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Dated: September 20, 2004

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

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